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CLAIMS

5 1. A communication system comprising means defining a communication region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols or the like and being responsive to a user-controlled pointing device whereby a desired symbol or the like can be selected characterised in that a desired symbol or the like can be selected by detecting movement of the pointing device along a predetermined bearing within the communication region, the predetermined bearing being substantially parallel to a direction of the desired symbol or the like relative to a central region of the communication region, but not consisting of movement toward a selectable region associated with a desired symbol or the like.

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15 2. A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is a plurality of cells within a single communication region, each cell having associated therewith a plurality of symbols or the like arranged in a linear manner, a desired symbol or the like being selected by movement towards the respective cell followed by further radial or circumferential movement to select the desired symbol or the like associated with the respective cell.

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25 3. A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of symbol entry regions are provided each having associated therewith a plurality of symbols and each being responsive to the user-controlled pointing device whereby a desired symbol can be selected by movement of the pointing device in a predetermined direction within the region with which the desired symbol is associated.

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35 4.. A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are eight communication regions, each region having associated therewith four symbols or the like arranged in an orthogonal manner, a desired symbol or the like being

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selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol or the like associated therewith in a predetermined orthogonal direction relative to the desired region.

5 5. A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are five communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols or the like arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol or the like being selected by movement within the region having
10 the desired symbol or the like associated therewith in a predetermined direction relative to the desired symbol or the like.

15 6. A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are four communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols or the like arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol or the like being selected by movement within the region having
20 the desired symbol or the like associated therewith in a predetermined direction relative to the desired symbol or the like.

25 7. A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are three communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols or the like arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol or the like being selected by movement within the region having
30 the desired symbol or the like associated therewith in a predetermined direction relative to the desired symbol or the like.

35 8. A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are two communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols or the like arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol or the like being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol or the like associated therewith in a

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predetermined direction relative to the desired symbol or the like.

5 9. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein two sets of communication regions are provided.

10 10. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein at least one further region is provided separated from the first-mentioned regions for toggling between the first-mentioned set of symbols or the like and one or more further sets of symbols or the like to be associated with each of the regions.

15 11. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein means is provided for selecting a further symbol or the like arranged within an area encompassed by or adjacent to the first-mentioned symbols or the like of each region by tapping the area within the desired region.

20 12. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein means is provided for selecting further symbols or the like by employing a different form of movement from that required to select from the basic symbols.

25 13. A communication system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the further symbols or the like may be selected on the basis of the speed of movement of the pointing device.

30 14. A communication system as claimed in claim 12 or 13, wherein the further symbols or the like may be selected on the basis of a combination of movements.

35 15. A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise a curvilinear movement.

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16. A communication system as claimed in claim 14 or 15, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement with a dwell at the beginning and/or end thereof.

5 17. A communication system as claimed in claim 14, 15 or 16, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement in a first direction followed by a further linear movements reversing the preceding movement.

10 18. A communication system as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 17, wherein the combination of movements comprise two sequential linear movements either at a predetermined angle to each other.

15 19. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the region or regions are provided on a touch-sensitive pad or screen.

20 20. A method of communication in which a plurality of symbols or the like are associated with a communication region and a desired symbol or the like is selected by movement of a pointing device characterised in that a desired symbol or the like is selected by detecting movement of the pointing device along a predetermined bearing within the communication region, the predetermined bearing being substantially parallel to a direction of the desired symbol or the like relative to a central region of the communication region, but not consisting of movement toward a selectable region associated with a desired symbol or the like.

25 30 35 21. A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein there is a plurality of cells within a single communication region, each cell having associated therewith a plurality of symbols or the like arranged in a linear manner, a desired symbol or the like being selected by movement towards the respective cell followed by further

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~~radial or circumferential movement to select the desired symbol or the like associated with the respective cell.~~

22. A method of communication according to claim 20,
5 wherein a plurality of symbol entry regions are provided
each having associated therewith a plurality of symbols and
each being responsive to the user-controlled pointing
device whereby a desired symbol can be selected by movement
10 of the pointing device in a predetermined direction within
the region with which the desired symbol is associated.

23. A method of communication according to claim 22,
15 wherein there are eight communication regions, each region
having associated therewith four symbols or the like
arranged in an orthogonal manner, a desired symbol or the
like being selected by movement within the region having
the desired symbol or the like associated therewith in a
predetermined orthogonal direction relative to the desired
region.

24. A method of communication according to claim 22,
20 wherein there are five communication regions, each region
having associated therewith a plurality of symbols or the
like arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol
25 or the like being selected by movement within the region
having the desired symbol or the like associated therewith
in a predetermined direction relative to the desired symbol
or the like.

25. A method of communication according to claim 22,
30 wherein there are four communication regions, each region
having associated therewith a plurality of symbols or the
like arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol
35 or the like being selected by movement within the region
having the desired symbol or the like associated therewith
in a predetermined direction relative to the desired symbol
or the like.

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26. A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are three communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols or the like arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol or the like being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol or the like associated therewith in a predetermined direction relative to the desired symbol or the like.

27. A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are two communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols or the like arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol or the like being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol or the like associated therewith in a predetermined direction relative to the desired symbol or the like.

28. A method of communication according to any one of claims 20 to 27, wherein two sets of communication regions are provided.

29. A method of communication according to any one of claims 20 to 28, wherein at least one further region is provided separated from the first-mentioned regions for toggling between the first-mentioned set of symbols or the like and one or more further sets of symbols or the like to be associated with each of the regions.

30. A method of communication according to any one of claims 20 to 29, wherein means is provided for selecting a further symbol or the like arranged within an area encompassed by or adjacent to the first-mentioned symbols or the like of each region by tapping the area within the desired region.

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31. A method of communication according to any one of claims 20 to 30, wherein further symbols or the like are selectable by employing a different form of movement from that required to select from the basic symbols.

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32. A method of communication according to claim 31, wherein the further symbols or the like may be selected on the basis of the speed of movement of the pointing device.

33. A method of communication according to claim 31 or 32, wherein the further symbols or the like may be selected on the basis of a combination of movements.

34. A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise a curvilinear movement.

35. A method of communication according to claim 33 or 34, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement with a dwell at the beginning and/or end thereof.

36. A method of communication according to claim 33, 34 or 35, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement in a first direction followed by a further linear movements reversing the preceding movement.

37. A method of communication according to any one of claims 33 to 36, wherein the combination of movements comprise two sequential linear movements either at a predetermined angle to each other.

38. A method of communication according to any one of claims 20 to 37, wherein the region or regions are provided on a touch-sensitive pad or screen.